

of himself into his songs to give them the colour of his personality. In the songs which he obviously composed late in life we see how near God was to his heart. There is here the suggestion of that peace of the soul that no words can describe.

The songs of Purandaradasa are not all subjective. Many of them seem to have been suggested by occurrences in the world around him. They indicate a mind familiar with the world and its ways and inclined as much to see without as within. Wide knowledge, deep experience, and a great love of humanity are visible in them. Their range is great. Men of many types will find something in him to satisfy. The songs preach no mere renunciation. Life in the world but life in thought of God is what they teach. They warned the prosperous ones of his generation against thinking too much of the pleasures of the body and material success and to the needy and destitute gave the message that they need not despair. God still was father to all and misfortune might only be His way of calling them to Himself. His teaching so appealed to the people of his and succeeding generations that he is still the Servant of Hari that men remember best. The centuries that have passed since he sang have only fixed him more and more firmly

in popular respect, and even now if any one
sings a
Kannada hymn, ten to one it is a hymn
composed
by Purandaradasa. If it makes no parade
of clever-
ness, uses the simplest word and goes
direct to the
heart with the meaning, then it is no one
else's; it
can be only his.